

(15)

NATIONAL PHOTOGRAPHIC INTERPRETATION CENTER



Top Secret

25X1

Imagery analysis report

**Guanghua Airfield Identified as
Probable Support Airbase For Possible
Alternate National Military Command
Center at Fangxian, China (S)**

Top Secret



**IAR-0324/80
DECEMBER 1980
Copy 170**

25X1

25X1

Page Denied

Top Secret RUFF

25X1

25X1

GUANGHUA AIRFIELD IDENTIFIED AS PROBABLE SUPPORT AIRBASE FOR POSSIBLE ALTERNATE NATIONAL MILITARY COMMAND CENTER AT FANGXIAN, CHINA (S)

1. (S/D) Guanghua Airfield [] in the Wuhan Military Region (MR), China, has been identified as the probable support airbase for the possible Alternate National Military Command Center¹ at Fangxian MR Alternate Command and Control and Military Storage (BE [] Figure 1).

25X1

25X1

2. [] Activity inconsistent with a pilot training mission has been observed at Guanghua Airfield. Unusual bunker construction, observed since October 1976, includes bunkers for the navigational/approach aids, a possible command bunker, and two bunkered high-frequency (HF) radio communications facilities probably utilized by the 49th Radar Regiment.² On [] [] imagery revealed that one of the unidentified buildings located atop the possible command bunker is a microwave terminal (Figure 2) that intercepts the major north/south line through the western part of the Wuhan MR. These facilities indicate a more important use for the airfield than pilot training.

25X1

25X1

25X1

3. [] Another indication that Guanghua is more than a training airfield is its repeated use by aircraft from the independent squadron of the Chinese Air Force 34th Division from Beijing. This squadron is used to transport national-level officials.³

25X1

4. (S/D) Guanghua Airfield, only 57 nautical miles northeast of the possible command center, provides an excellent staging point for helicopter transfer. The possible command center is served by a small heliport with an aircraft tunnel. The tunnel can accept HOUND, HIP-C, and Super Frelon helicopters and COLT fixed-wing aircraft. The landing area is of sufficient length for COLT aircraft.

5. [] Guanghua Airfield is well within range of Hound helicopters from Wuhan City (30-35N 114-16E), where the 8th Independent Squadron is based.⁴ It is also within range of HIP-C and possibly HOUND helicopters from Xinxiang (35-19N 113-52E), where the 6th Independent Regiment (helicopter) is based.⁴

25X1

6. (S/D) It can be concluded that Guanghua Airfield is probably the support airbase for the possible command center at Fangxian. This airbase has navigational aids in bunkers, it has a possible command bunker with a microwave terminal, and it is adjacent to one of the major east/west underground communications cables.⁵ These factors provide the airbase with more protection and a greater communications capability than expected or required for a training base. High-level officials could be transported into this airbase from anywhere in China and transferred quickly to the possible command center.

25X1

Top Secret RUFF

25X1

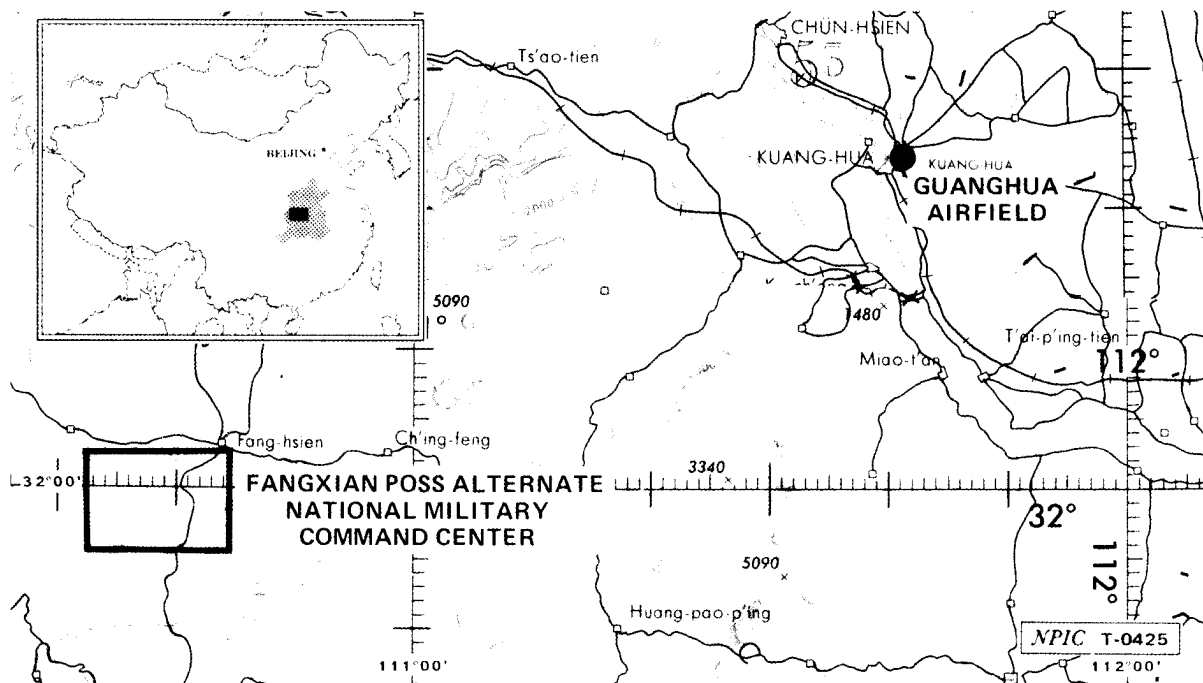


FIGURE 1. LOCATION OF GUANGHUA AIRFIELD AND THE POSSIBLE ALTERNATE NATIONAL MILITARY COMMAND CENTER, FANGXIAN, CHINA

25X1

Top Secret

IAR-0324/80

25X1

Top Secret RUFF []

25X1

REFERENCES

IMAGERY

(S/D) All applicable imagery acquired through [] was used in the preparation of this report.

25X1

MAPS OR CHARTS

DMA. Operational Navigation Chart, Series ONC, Sheet G-9, 4th ed, May 74, scale 1:1,000,000 (UNCLASSIFIED)

DMA. Operational Navigation Chart, Series ONC, Sheet H-11, 4th ed, Dec 74, scale 1:1,000,000 (UNCLASSIFIED)

DOCUMENTS

1. NPIC. [] IAR-0156/80, *Possible Alternate National Military Command Center, Wuhan Military Region, China (S)*, Nov 80 (TOP SECRET [])

25X1
25X1
25X1

2. NPIC. [] IAR-0019/80, *Unusual Bunkering Activity at Guanghua (Kuang-hua) Airfield, Wuhan Military Region, PRC (S)*, Mar 80 (TOP SECRET [])

25X1
25X1
25X1

3. NSA. TIPS/COINS Data Base, *PRCAM-Military Transports, as of 4 Nov 80* (TOP SECRET [])

25X1

4. NSA. TIPS/COINS Data Base, *CHDOF-PRC Disposition of Air Forces, as of 24 Sep 80* (TOP SECRET [])

25X1

5. NPIC. [] PIR-022/75, *Underground Telecommunications Line, Wu-han Military Region, China (S)*, May 75 (TOP SECRET [])

25X1
25X1

(S) Comments and queries regarding this report are welcome. They may be directed to [] Asian Forces Division, Imagery Exploitation Group, NPIC, []

25X1
25X1

Top Secret



Top Secret